

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10
FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03
H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
AID-05 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01
SP-02 OMB-01 XMB-02 /133 W
-----050756Z 025794 /21

R 041720Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5679
INFO USMISSION UN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: GATT, AORG
SUBJ: GATT COUNCIL DISCUSSION EROSION OF SALARIES AND
ALLOWANCES

REF: STATE 44288

1. DURING MARCH 2 GATT COUNCIL, D-G OLIVIER LONG PROPOSED THAT 515,409 SWISS FRANCS CURRENTLY IN SUSPENSE ACCOUNT RESULTING FROM 1974 SURPLUS BE APPLIED RETROACTIVELY FOR THE 1974 YEAR, AS PAYMENT FOR ALL STAFF MEMBERS ON SAME BASIS AS SALARY AND ALLOWANCE ADJUSTMENTS FOR 1977 JUST AGREED BY UN SYSTEM. STAFF ASSOCIATION ADDRESSED COUNCIL TO SECOND THE REQUEST. U.S., EC, CANADA, AUSTRALIA OPPOSED ON BASIS THAT SUCH A RETROACTIVE PAYMENT WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH UN COMMON SYSTEM PRACTICE IN GENEV. YUGOSLAVIA PROPOSED THAT 160,000 FRANCS OF THE AMOUNT BE PAID TO STAFF WITHOUT DEPENDENTS AS A ONE-TIME 1977 "EX GRATIA" PAYMENT, ON BASIS THAT THOSE WITHOUT DEPENDENTS HAD BEEN IMPROPERLY TREATED UNDER UN SYSTEM. FIFTEEN LDC'S AND SWITZERLAND SUPPORTED.

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2. AS COUNCIL CHAIRMAN WAS ABOUT TO GAVEL THROUGH THIS SECOND PROPOSAL, U.S. INTERVENED AND SAID WE WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE TO REFLECT BUT OUR INITIAL REACTION WAS THAT YUGOSLAVIAN PROPOSAL WAS ALSO INCONSISTENT WITH COMMON SYSTEM. WE ADDED THAT COUNCIL DID NOT KNOW WHETHER STAFF ASSOCIATION (WHO BY THEN WERE ABSENT) WOULD BE SATISFIED IN ANY EVENT. THUS, CHAIRMAN DE-

FERRED ISSUE UNTIL NEXT COUNCIL.

3. WE HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY TALKED WITH OTHER KEY DELS,
AND FRG, NETHERLANDS, CANADA, POSSIBLY AMONG SEVERAL
OTHERS, AGREE THAT YUGOSLAVIAN PROPOSAL WOULD ALSO
ESTABLISH UNACCEPTABLE PRECEDENT BOTH THROUGHOUT GENEVA
AND WITHIN THE GATT. WE HAVE APPROACHED NEW BUDGET COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN FEIJ OF THE NETHERLANDS AND SUGGESTED THAT HE MAY
WISH TO APPROACH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, D-G LONG, AND APPROPRIATE LDC
REPS AND FIND SOME MEANS OF AVOIDING REPETITION OF THE
COUNCIL STATEMENTS. FEIJ, THINKING ALOUD, WONDERED
WHETHER A CONVENIENT MEANS OF AVOIDING FURTHER COUNCIL
SHOWDOWN WITH LDC'S MIGHT BE TO ALLOT SOME SMALL FRAC-
TION OF THE 515,409 FRANC SUSPENSE ACCOUNT--PERHAPS A
TENTH OR SO--TO THE ALREADY EXISTING STAFF ASSISTANCE
FUND. WILL REPORT FURTHER WHEN MORE IS KNOWN.CATTO

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770393/aaaadegu.tel
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